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OCI No. 1244/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
3 April 1963

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Insurgency in Thailand

1. While there is no active insurgency as such in Thailand, there has been a recent acceleration of subversive efforts. The two principal problem areas are the northeastern provinces adjacent to Laos, and the four Moslem provinces along the Malayan border. In the northeast, where the residents consider themselves Thai but are traditionally oriented toward Laos, the causes for dissidence are poverty and resentment over Bangkok's traditional indifference to local needs. In the south, where differences are ethnic and religious, Communist subversive activity is directed at both the remnant of the Malayan terrorist organization and a negligible Moslem irredentist movement.

2. In both areas there is a built-in Communist minority. In the northeast, Vietnamese refugee communities, estimated at 45-60,000 are in the process of repatriation to North Vietnam at the rate of about 600 a month. In the south, there is a hardcore group of 5-800 Malayan Communist Party insurgents, nearly all Chinese, who use the border area as a refuge from Malayan security forces.

3. In the northern provinces, agents sent from Laos by the Pathet Lao are engaged in the organization and training of the local hill tribesmen. The Pathet Lao also recruits and indoctrinates Thai cadre in Laos for future activities in Thailand.

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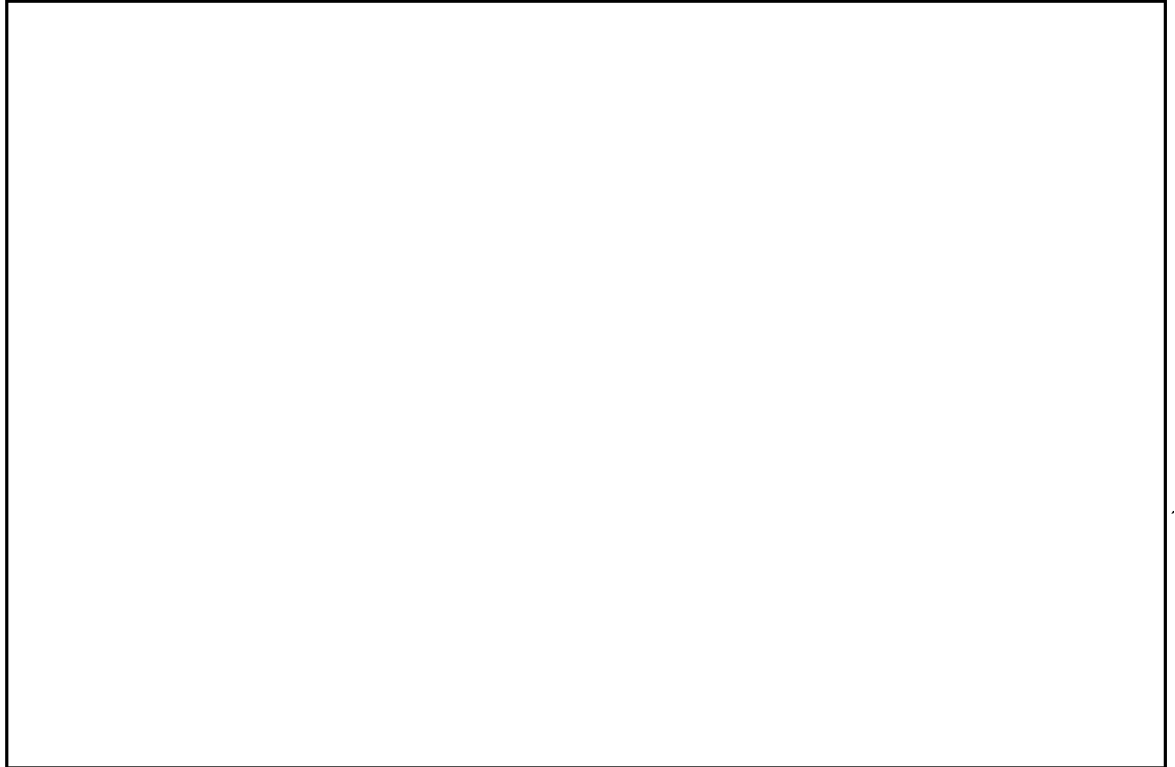
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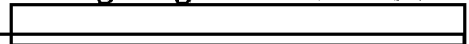


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6. Bangkok has long recognized its problem in the south and has handled it by permitting a great deal of autonomy to the Moslem minority.

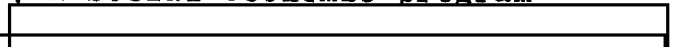
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7. During the past year, Bangkok has endeavored to take remedial action in the northeast through Mobile Development Units (MDU), a social-economic program geared to local needs.

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